I SPENT SEVEN YEARS AT HARVARD STUDYING MICROBIOLOGY.

MHMmmmmm

WORK-AT-HOME MOTHER FOR NINE YEARS. STUDIED IN SEATTLE FOR DISEASE CONTROL RESEARCH.

NO KIDDING....

I HATE BUGS.

I CAN TYPE, I GUESS. BUT, MY REAL STRENGTH IS MY UNDER-THE-DESK WORK...

PFFHHH... NEXT!

I HAVE ONLY THE BASIC MEDICAL TRAINING AND ONLY A COMMON KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF CANCER.

I AM, THOUGH, A FAST LEARNER AND A HARD WORKER.

AS A PERSONAL NOTE, MY BELOVED WIFE IS NOW BEDRIDDEN FROM THE VERY SAME CANCER YOUR RESEARCH IS INTENDED TO CURE.

PERFECT...

EXCUSE ME, MRS. SULLIVAN?

YOU HAVE A VISITOR

HELLO, SUE.

AURTHOR!!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO BE IN SEATTLE ALL DAY...

I DID TOO, BUT DOCTOR THALMUS LET ME COME EARLY TO SEE YOU. HE HAD SOME CHILDREN TO TREAT.

YOU MEAN YOU GOT THE JOB WORKING FOR DOCTOR THALMUS?

YES. I GUESS HE LIKED OUR SOB STORY.

I PROMISE YOU, SUE, I'M GOING TO SAVE YOU. NOTHING IS GOING TO STOP ME.

SO, ARE YOU FEELING ANY BETTER TODAY, SUE?

MY LEGS ARE STILL TOO WEAK TO STAND LONGER THAN A MINUTE...

I GET DIZZY SOMETIMES AND MY HANDS OCCASIONALLY HURT TO OPEN AND CLOSE...

AND THEN THERE'S A WEIRD SMELL THA—

WHAT'S WRONG?

I'M JUST IMPRESSED THAT YOU CAN SAY AND DEAL WITH ALL OF THAT & KEEP SMILING

I LOVE YOU, YA KNOW

I KNOW IT.

WHATCHA READING?

HMM?

OH ITS DAVID HOPKINS' NEW BOOK, "THE UNDER" ABOUT A FUTURE METALLIC WORLD WHERE A PLANT SPROUTS IN THE STREET AND THEY GO UNDERGROUND TO SEE WHERE THE PLANT CAME FROM...

THE UNDER

UGH, I CAN'T STAND HOPKINS' BOOKS. WHEN HE'S NOT BEING GOREY, HE'S TOO PREACHY.

BUT THEN, YOU LIKE THE GOREY STUFF...

UH-HUH.

THIS IS THE RECORD ROOM. YOU WILL KEEP IT CLEAN.

YES, DOCTOR.

MASON RESEARCH

THE RECORDS SHOW PAST PATIENTS, EXPERIMENTS, AND OTHER INFORMATION

YES, DOCTOR

CANCER RESEARCH IS A LONG, DIFFICULT PROCESS. RESULTS COME OVER A LONG TIME, BUT WE HERE AT MASON ARE MAKING LEAPS.

YES, DOCTOR

MR. SULLIVAN, MAY I BE BLUNT AND A LITTLE HARSH?

OF COURSE, DOCTOR.

YOU ARE NOT A STUDENT OR A COLLEAGUE. I DON'T NEED TO EXERT ANY AUTHORITY ON YOU. I WILL CALL YOU 'ART' FROM HERE ON OUT. MY FIRST NAME IS RIGER.

ALRIGHT, RIGGS.

ART, I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT. I'LL LET DOCTOR DEE FINISH ACQUAINTING YOU WITH OUR GROUNDS.

MR. SULLIVAN? I'M DOCTOR DEE. I WAS ASKED TO SHOW YOU AROUND.

DO YOU AND DOCTOR THALMUS HAPPEN TO BE BROTHERS?

SORT OF.... YOU SEEM LIKE A WELL READ FELLAH, MR. SULLIVAN. DO YOU HAPPEN TO READ DAVID HOPKINS?

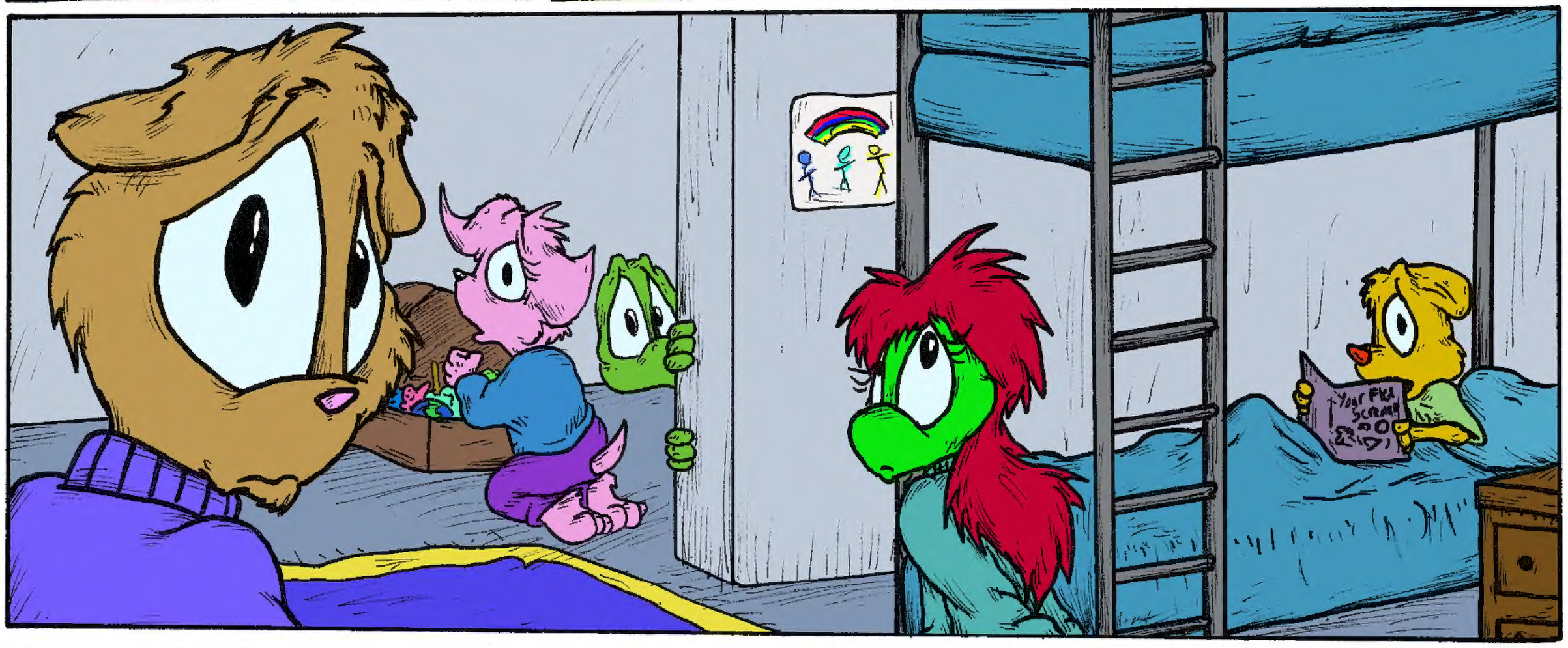
NOT REALLY, BUT MY WIFE IS BIG INTO HIM.

PITY. I'M READING "THE SQUARE".

BETCHA ITS PREACHY...

WELL IT DOES SHOW A STRONG SUPPORT OF CAPITALISM.

HERE'S THE CHILDRENS' WARD...



MY GOD...

THEY LOOK SO SAD...

IF YOU WERE DYING OF CANCER, YOU'D BE DOWN TOO.

HELLO

HMM? OH, HI THERE! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

MY NAME'S FLERP

WELL MY NAME IS ART

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER?

MR. SULLIVAN— I HAVE TO GET GOING, HERE.

OH, SURE. THAT'S FINE. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YA, FLERP?

I CAN'T READ DIS BOOK...

AURTHOR? I WORRIED. WHAT KEPT YOU?

OH SUE, IT WAS GREAT! THERE WERE SOME KIDS THERE AND THEY WANTED ME TO READ TO THEM. I LEFT WHEN THEY WENT TO SLEEP. IT MADE ME FEEL SO NICE.

AURTHOR? YOU NEVER CHANGE AND I LOVE YOU FOR IT.

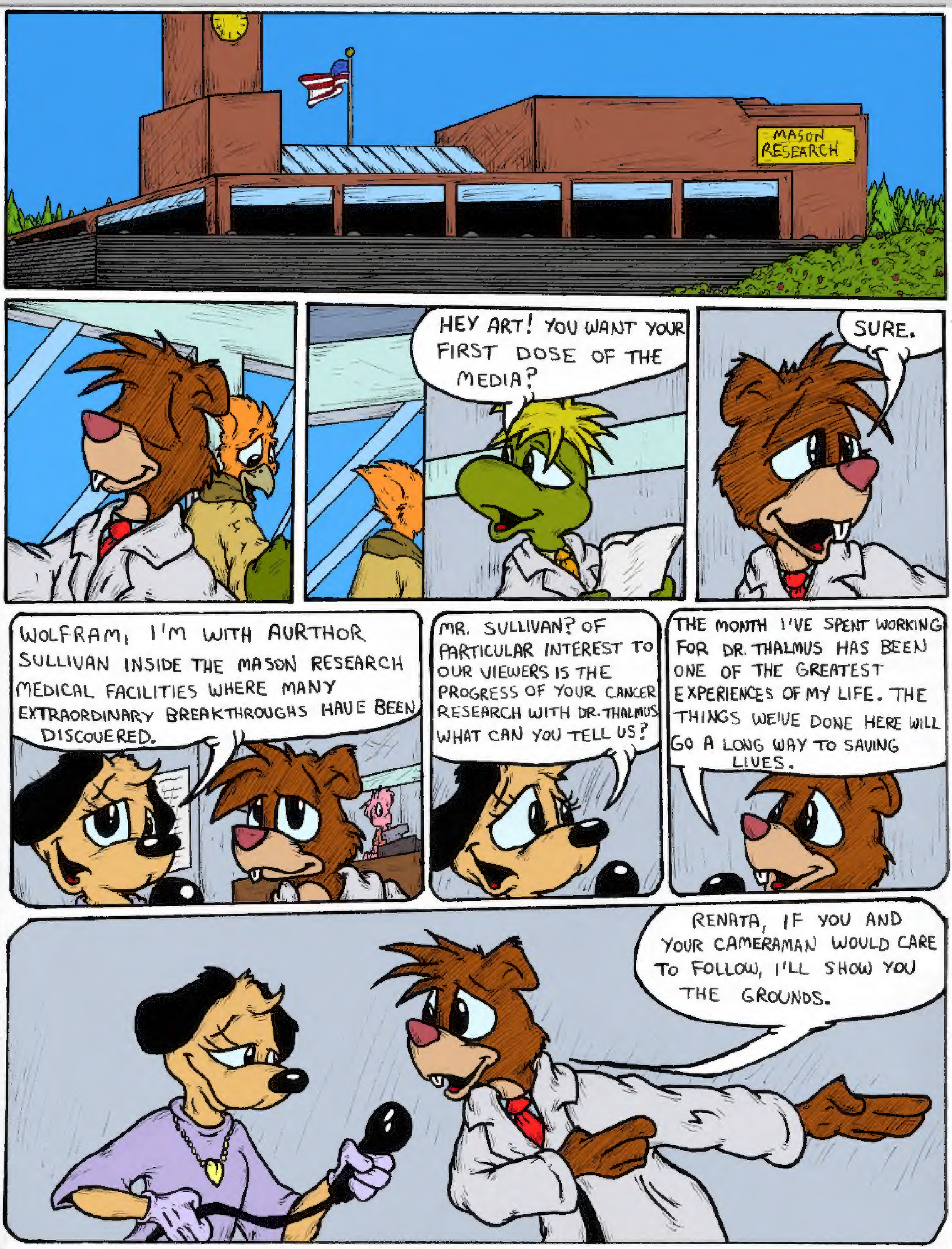
I MEAN, I DIDN'T NEED ANOTHER REASON TO KEEP GOING, BUT I'VE GOT A BIG ONE NOW.

WHAT?

NOTHING.

YOU JUST PROMISE THAT YOU'LL ALWAYS STAY THE SAME.

I WILL...


MASON RESEARCH
HEY ART! YOU WANT YOUR FIRST DOSE OF THE MEDIA?
SURE.
WOLFRAM, I'M WITH AURTHOR SULLIVAN INSIDE THE MASON RESEARCH MEDICAL FACILITIES WHERE MANY EXTRAORDINARY BREAKTHROUGHS HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED.
MR. SULLIVAN? OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO OUR VIEWERS IS THE PROGRESS OF YOUR CANCER RESEARCH WITH DR. THALMUS WHAT CAN YOU TELL US?
THE MONTH I'VE SPENT WORKING FOR DR. THALMUS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE GREATEST EXPERIENCES OF MY LIFE. THE THINGS WE'VE DONE HERE WILL GO A LONG WAY TO SAVING LIVES.
RENATA, IF YOU AND YOUR CAMERAMAN WOULD CARE TO FOLLOW, I'LL SHOW YOU THE GROUNDS.

YOUR NAME'S KEVIN, RIGHT?

GETTING TIRED OF HOLDING THAT CAMERA?

I ASSURE YOU KEVIN IS A CAPABLE CAMERAMAN, MR. SULLIVAN.

I LIKE HIS SHIRT.

MASON RESEARCH HAS A DEEP INTEREST IN CANCER. MOST GOVERNMENT FUNDS FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH GOES TO AIDS WHILE YEARLY CANCER KILLS FAR MORE PEOPLE.

MASON RESEARCH EXISTS TO HELP CANCER VICTIMS, LIKE THESE CHILDREN...

STeVe

NOW I'LL LET YOU LOOK AT THE RESEARCH AREA...

THIS IS WHERE DOCTOR THALMUS AND I WORK. OUR MAIN RESEARCH IS DONE IN THIS LABORATORY, OCCASIONALLY GOING INTO SURGERY—

EXCUSE ME! I'M SORRY, YOU CAN'T HAVE THAT CAMERA IN HERE.

I'M SORRY. I'M WITH A PATIENT AND I MUST PROTECT HIM FROM MEDIA EXPOSURE.

THAT AND MASON'S STUDIES ARE ONLY SHARED WITH OTHER CANCER RESEARCH FACILITIES. WE CAN'T PUBLICIZE OUR FINDINGS.

SIR, I AM SO SORRY...

IT'S ALRIGHT, ART. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER.

I'M AFRAID, MS. RENATA, THIS ENDS OUR TOUR.

THAT'S ALRIGHT, MR. SULLIVAN. THIS IS RENATA WITH NEWSHOUNDS AT THE MASON RESEARCH CENTER, SIGNING OFF.

UGH, I WAS HORRIBLE...

OH, YOU WEREN'T THAT BAD!

STILL, I COULD HAVE DONE A LOT BETTER. I DUNNO.

I MAY NEED TO CALL IT A NIGHT, HON...

WELL THEN, I'LL LET YOU SLEEP. I WANT TO GO BACK AND DO SOME LATE WORK BEFORE TOMORROW.

HEY GLEN. THE DOC STILL IN, BY CHANCE?

EVENING, MR. SULLIVAN. DR. THALMUS IS IN THE BACK OFFICE. I'M SURE HE'LL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU.

WHO'S STILL HERE?

NO ONE, REALLY. FEW PROFESSORS WORKING LATE, JANITORIAL STAFF... REALLY LIGHT.

BY THE WAY, GLEN, HAPPY BIRTHDAY

WELL THANK YOU.

HEY, DID YOU GET IN THAT COMIC YOUR FRIEND TRIED TO GET YOU IN AS ONE OF YOUR PRESENTS?

OH YES!! GET THIS, I FOUND OUT FROM MY FRIEND ABOUT THE WRITER SAYING OK, SO I WROTE THE GUY TO FIND OUT IF IT WAS TRUE. WHEN I DIDN'T GET A LETTER BACK, I FIGURED MY FRIEND MADE IT UP. TURNS OUT HE DIDN'T WRITE BACK SO THAT WHEN I LOOKED AT THE COMIC TODAY I'D STILL BE SURPRISED.

GO FIGURE. WHAT ARE YOU READING?

EH. "JHON AND JAMAL: THE RACIAL RAINBOW"

IS IT PREACHY?

YOU HAVE NO IDEA...

AM I THE ONLY ONE THAT DOESN'T LIKE HOPKINS' BOOKS?

I THINK DOCTOR THALMUS IS NONE TOO FOND OF HIM. HE READS THAT SCOTTY GUY

UGH. I DON'T LIKE HIM, EITHER. GIVE ME A TEMPLE, TK. DYE, OR STARR ANY DAY. SEE YA. HAPPY BIRTHDAY

RIGGS?

mmm

NOW, I DON'T LIKE THIS EITHER

WE HAVE TO GET IT DONE SO YOU CAN FEEL BETTER

AND YOU WANT TO FEEL BETTER, RIGHT?

OH MY G—...

ART?

ART! COME BACK!

—NO, YOU GO GET YOUR CLOTHES BACK ON AND GO TO BED. AND DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT TONIGHT OR YOU WON'T GET BETTER!

ART! ART, WHAT ARE YOU DOING??

I'M CALLING THE POLICE.

KEEP THE HELL AWAY FROM ME!

ARTIE, YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT.

OKAY. I ADMIT IT. I HAVE A LITTLE PROBLEM.

"LITTLE"?

IS THAT YOUR FUCKING IDEA OF A JOKE??

LOOK AT WHAT YOU'RE PUTTING ON THE LINE, HUH? I CAN'T HELP YOUR WIFE OR ANYONE FROM JAIL, NOW, COULD I?

I DON'T KEEP WRITTEN NOTES OF MY RESEARCH, YOU KNOW. TOO RISKY. EVERYTHING IS COMMITED TO MY MEMORY. THERE WOULD BE NO WAY FOR THIS RESEARCH TO CONTINUE WITHOUT ME. IT WAS JUST A LAPSE IN CONTROL ART. WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN

ARTIE THINK ABOUT YOUR WIFE. THINK ABOUT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE **LIKE** YOUR WIFE.

YA KNOW, I'M GLAD YOU CAUGHT ME. YOU KEPT ME FROM DOING SOMETHING STUPID.

LOOK, GO HOME, GET SOME REST AND WE'LL TALK IN THE MORNING.

NO! GET YOUR COAT, I'M DRIVING YOU HOME. I'LL PICK YOU UP IN THE MORNING.

WHEN WE COME BACK IN THE MORNING I'M GOING TO CHECK ON THAT KID AND IF YOU'RE SERIOUS, YOU'LL TALK TO DOCTOR BARA IN PSYCHIATRIC...

HOW YA DOING, KID?

GET WELL NOW!

WATER SHIP DOWN

AH, ADAMS. THANK GOD. YOU GOT GOOD TASTE, KID. HOW FAR IN IT ARE YOU?

WHY DID HAZEL WANT TO DIE?

I SUPPOSE HE JUST FELT IT WAS HIS TIME TO GO.

I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT'S MY TIME...

ITS NOT. AND IT WON'T BE FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

THAT'S NOT WHAT DR. THALMUS SAID LAST NIGHT...

LISTEN, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU LAST NIGHT WAS A VERY TERRIBLE THING. IT WAS WRONG OF THE DOCTOR AND IT WAS **NOT** YOUR FAULT

IF THAT EVER HAPPENS AGAIN TO YOU OR ANY OF THE OTHER KIDS, COME TELL ME.

OK...

GOOD. I'LL BE HAZEL AND YOU BE FIVER AND LET ME KNOW IF THINGS ARE GOING WRONG.

HEY SCOTTY?

HEY, MR. SULLIVAN.

SCOTTY, ARE YOU GOING TO BE GAURDING ALL NIGHT?

YES, SIR.

I'M HEADED HOME BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE KIDS. COULD YOU MAKE SURE THEY STAY IN THEIR WARD TONIGHT?

SURE, NO PROBLEM. ANY PARTICULAR REASON?

JUST A BAD HUNCH, I GUESS. SEE YA TOMORROW

HI AURTHOR... WHAT'S WRONG?

JUST SOME PROBLEMS AT WORK. CAN WE NOT TALK ABOUT IT RIGHT NOW?

MTGP

OKAY. ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR SPEECH TOMORROW

OH CHRIST, I HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED.

HEY, YOU'VE HAD TO WING THIS SORT OF THING BEFORE.

YEAH...

HON? WHAT'S WRONG?

AURTHOR? YOU LOOK TIRED AND I'M KINDA SLEEPY TOO. GO TO BED.

YEAH... OKAY. I'LL STOP BY BEFORE WORK

LOVE YOU

I LOVE YOU TOO. BYE.

THE BASIS OF OUR RESEARCH IS AS FOLLOWS.

FOR THE CANCER TUMOR TO SUSTAIN ITSELF, IT NEEDS TO GET ITS FOOD FROM THE BODY.

Grr I'm Cancer

OOPS.

OH, SORRY

NO, NO, ITS NO PROBLEM

EARLY PRACTICE WAS TO PULL OUT THE TUMOR AND AN AREA AROUND IT, HOPING TO CATCH THE CANCER BEFORE IT SPREADS TOO FAR...

THIS IS NOT USEABLE DUE TO THE RATE CANCER REPRODUCES.

THE CANCER GIVES OUT A SIGNAL TO MAKE NEARBY BLOOD VESSELS GROW TOWARD THE TUMOR TO FEED IT.

OUR RESEARCH IS FOCUSED ON BLOCKING THOSE SIGNALS IN THE BODY

IT IS BELIEVED THAT ONCE WE BLOCK THESE SIGNALS, THE CANCER WILL DIE INSIDE THE BODY.

THE TRICK, OF COURSE, NOW IS TO DISCOVER THE RIGHT COMBINATION OF TREATMENT, HOW MUCH TREATMENT, AND HOW VARIED THE TREATMENT MUST BE FOR INDIVIDUALS.

NATURALLY THERE'LL ALSO BE OTHER UNFORESEEN ROAD BLOCKS BUT WE ARE CONFIDENT WE WILL OVERCOME ANYTHING THAT COMES OUR WAY. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN I THANK YOU.

MR. SULLIVAN?

UM... YEAH. WHAT IS IT?

SIR, ONE OF THE PATIENTS IN THE CHILDRENS WARD IS ASKING FOR Y—

WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT HAPPENED??

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?? DID HE DO SOMETHING?

I'M OKAY...

I'M OKAY, BUT SHE DIDN'T--SHE'S NOT OKAY...

DOCTOR...?

OH, HI ARTIE. WHAT CAN I—

HMM?

ARTI—

STOP!

ST—

IF YOU DON'T

STO—

STOP IT! OR

I'LL—

ARAGAHHH!!

STOP! OR I'LL KILL YOUR GOD DAMNED WIFE!!

YOU'LL WHAT??

DON'T THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING AND ITS NOT GOING TO WORK!

HOW COULD YOU DO THAT TO HER?!? SHE WAS JUST A LITTLE G—

SHUT UP! SHUT UP!

I'LL TURN MYSELF IN BEFORE I LET YOU KICK THE SHIT OUT OF ME EVERY TIME I FUCK ONE OF THESE LITTLE BASTARDS!

YOU WON'T TURN YOURSELF IN, I WILL!!

OH, GIVE IT UP! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TURN ME IN BECAUSE THEN I CAN'T HELP YOUR WIFE... BUT IF YOU HIT ME AGAIN...

I WILL TURN MYSELF IN AND THAT WILL KILL YOUR WIFE. YOU KNOW THAT.

YOU'RE LYING! YOU'RE LYING, YOU ASSHOLE!

OH, JUDGE, I JUST WANTED TO HELP PEOPLE I DON'T KNOW WHY I WAS DOING SOMETHING SO SICK...

DOCTOR, I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER THAN I DID. I'M SO SORRY FOR WHAT I'VE DONE.

WHAT? NO, NO, I DON'T DESERVE FREEDOM. JUST LOCK ME AWAY FROM ALL EYES.

YOU KNOW, HARDLY ANYTHING WOULD HAPPEN TO ME. YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND... I'LL TELL THEM YOU WERE IN ON IT. IT WON'T STICK, BUT IT WILL KEEP YOU FROM YOUR WORK AND YOUR WIFE FOR A GOOD LONG TIME. SHE'LL DIE WONDERING IF YOU WERE A PART OF IT.

MASON RESEARCH KNEW SOMETHING WAS GOING ON BUT THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT. THEY MADE ME HIRE AN ASSISTANT.

I PICKED YOU BECAUSE IF YOU EVER FOUND OUT, I HAD SOMETHING TO CONTROL YOU WITH.

YOUR WIFE.

OH, ARTIE... YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT ITS LIKE TO CORRUPT SOMETHING INNOCENT

TO POLLUTE SOMETHING WHILE ITS STILL PURE. TO DESTROY, ARTIE. DESTRUCTION IS POWER. REAL POWER.

MR. SULLIVAN?!

HUH SCOTTY?

MR. SULLIVAN? THE HOSPITAL YOUR WIFE IS IN CALLED. THEY WANT YOU TO COME RIGHT AWAY!

I-- ALRIGHT! I'M ON MY WAY!

DOCTOR? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR EYE?

OH, JUST RAN INTO A DOOR. NO BIGGIE.

OH. ALL RIGHT THEN HAPPENS TO THE BEST OF US.

SCOTTY, CAN I SAY SOMETHING, KNOWING YOU'LL KEEP IT BETWEEN US?

OF COURSE SIR

I KNOW YOU'VE NOTICED ARTIE LOOKING A BIT PARANOID LATELY. THAT'S BEEN WORRYING ME. LIKE HE HAS SOMETHING TO HIDE. NOW, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'VE SEEN IT, BUT THE PATIENTS IN THE CHILDRENS' WARD SEEM TO FLINCH AS HE WALKS BY AND HE GIVES THEM ODD LOOKS THAT MAKE ME VERY UNCOMFORTABLE. I'M NOT SAYING ANYTHING BUT---

SHE KEEPS WAKING AND GOING BACK OUT. SHE IS ASLEEP NOW, BUT WE WANT YOU HERE BECAUSE WE DON'T THINK SHE WILL SURVIVE THE NIGHT...

PLEASE WAIT IN THE LOBBY. THE DOCTORS ARE WORKING ON HER

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH...

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

NO, I KNOW WHAT I SHOULD BE DOING. I SHOULD BE PRAYING TO GOD AS HARD AS I CAN...

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CLUE OF WHAT TO PRAY FOR?

RIGHT...

I THINK I SHOULD PRAY FOR GOD TO SPARE HER LIFE...

BUT THAT'S SELFISH. I SHOULDN'T DENY HER HEAVEN BECAUSE I NEED HER.

THEN I THINK, SPARE HER AND TAKE ME INSTEAD BUT THAT'S A BUNK DEAL TOO...

YOU GET HEAVEN, SHE STAYS IN THIS OFTEN HEARTLESS WORLD. I UNDERSTAND.

SO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO PRAY FOR...

WELL, YA KNOW, I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW GOD WHEN MY JILL DIED...

I WASN'T QUITE AS MAD AT GOD FOR TAKING HER LIFE...

AS I WAS MAD AT HIM FOR HURTING ME WITH HER DEATH

BUT, IF I COULD DO IT AGAIN, DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'D PRAY FOR?

WHAT?

NO PAIN. GOD, IF YOU HAVE TO TAKE HER AWAY FROM ME, PLEASE MAKE HER LAST FEW MOMENTS PAIN FREE.

YES. NO PAIN. PLEASE, GOD. NO PAIN.....

YOU KNOW, I WAS DOING SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT BEFORE I GOT HERE, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER...

SO WHAT ARE YOU HERE FOR?

I'M GOING TO TAKE A FRIEND OF MINE HOME. I'M A BIT EARLY. BUT I DONT WANT TO KEEP HER WAITING.

HMN. YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE A GOOD FRIEND.

SURE...

THAT NURSE IS COMING BACK

MR. SULLIVAN? YOUR WIFE IS AWAKE...

AURTHOR.....!

OH, SUE ....

THEY ROUGHED ME UP, DIDN'T THEY?

NO, YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL, SUE. NOW MORE THAN EVER BEFORE.

THANK YOU, LOVE. I NEEDED TO HEAR THAT.

AURTHOR? I DON'T KNOW THAT I'LL BE HERE IN THE MORNING...

YOU'LL BE FINE, LOVE. I'M SO CLOSE TO YOUR CURE NOW...

ITS NOT FAIR, SUE, ITS JUST NOT FAIR...

OF COURSE IT IS. EVERYBODY DIES. SOME SOONER THAN OTHERS.

SOME PEOPLE NEED TO DIE SOONER THAN OTHERS....

JUST REMEMBER YOUR PROMISE TO ME

I'M TRYING, SUE. SO HARD. WE ARE CLOSE TO CURING YOU.

....NO. YOU PROMISED ME YOU WOULDN'T CHANGE....

I HAVE CHANGED A LITTLE I'M AFRAID.

I'M SORRY, SUE. I HAVEN'T BEEN A VERY GOOD HUSBAND LATELY.

AURTHOR, YOU'RE DOING YOUR VERY BE—

.....

SUE?

SUE!

NURSE! DOCTOR! ANYONE!!

MISTER SULLIVAN, SHE'S OUT AGAIN, BUT SHE'S STILL ALIVE.

THE DOCTORS SAY SHE MAY OR MAY NOT WAKE UP AGAIN, BUT SHE'S BEYOND OUR CARE. THIS IS IN GOD'S HANDS NOW...

I HAVE TO GO. PLEASE CALL MY OFFICE IF HER CONDITION CHANGES.

SIR?

MR. SULLIVAN, SHE COULD GO AT ANY MOMENT.

NURSE, PLEASE. IF I DON'T GO, I BREAK MY LAST PROMISE TO HER BEFORE SHE DIES.

MASON RESEARCH

ERR... GOOD EVENING, MR. SULLIVAN...

LIFE IN THE ...ST

MR. SULLIVAN? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

SCOTTY...

THE CHILDREN. THEY'RE NOT SAFE. WE NEED TO GET THEM AWAY.

NOT SAFE FROM WHAT?

I-I CAN'T SAY JUST NOW. WE JUST NEED TO GET THEM AWAY.

AWAY TO WHERE...?

I DUNNO. MAYBE TO MY APARTMENT. JUST UNTIL THIS BLOWS OVER. JUST AWAY.

I DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA, MR. SULLIVAN. IN FACT, I THINK YOU SHOULD GO HOME FOR THE NIGHT...

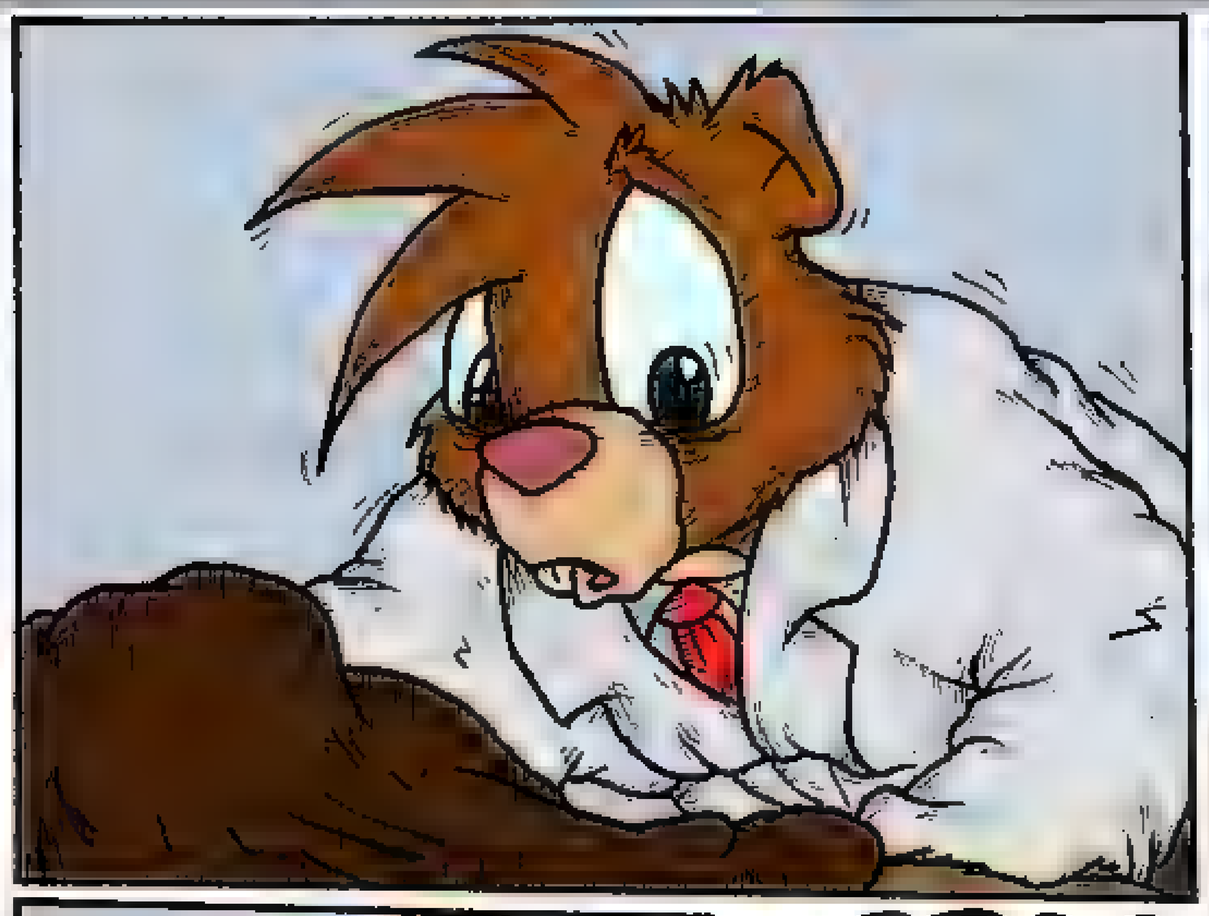
WHAT DID HE TELL YOU ABOUT ME??

NEVERMIND. I'LL FIND OUT MYSELF.

THALMUS?!?

THAL —

ENNGH...WHAT THE HELL DID I -- ~~~~

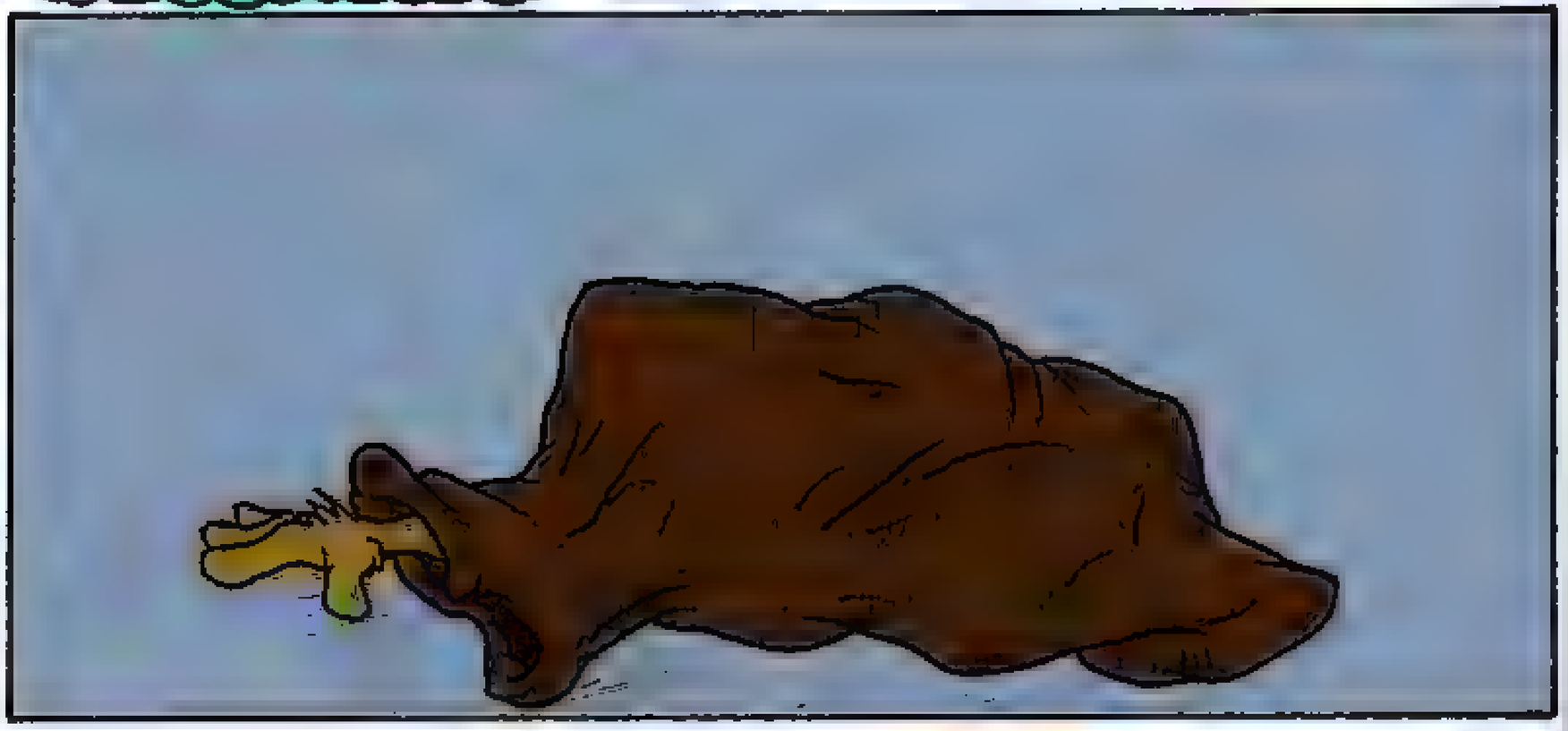







REDWALL
BY
BJ


F--F--FLERP.....




JESUS CHRIST!!

AHH, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU BACK SO SOON.

AHEM HELLO.

YOU.....KILLED THE CHILDREN...

NOT ALL OF THEM. JUST THE ONES I THOUGHT WOULD GIVE ME AWAY.

INCIDENTALLY, YOU'RE TAKING THE BLAME.

M-ME...

YES. I FED THE INFORMATION TO THE COMPUTER. THE RESULTS AGREE. GIVE ME A WEEK AND I WILL HAVE IT IN THE PHYSICAL FORM. THAT IS, A CURE FOR YOUR WIFE. BUT ONLY IF YOU TURN YOURSELF IN FOR ALL OF MY PHM..... GAMES...

I CAN SEE I'VE SPARKED YOUR INTEREST, BUT YOU MIGHT WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT SOME.

SO LETS GO FOR A RIDE. I'LL DRIVE THIS TIME. YOUR WIFE'S HOSPITAL CALLED JUST BEFORE YOU CAME IN.

GO ON. I'LL WAIT FOR YOU HERE.

MR. SULLIVAN! HURRY! COME QUICK! SHE WON'T LAST LONG!

AURTHOR....

WE WERE SO CLOSE, SUE. WE KNOW THE CURE NOW. IT'D JUST HAVE TAKEN A FEW MORE DAYS TO MAKE IT.

I KNOW YOU DID YOUR BEST, AURTHOR. AND YOUR WORK WILL SAVE SOMEONE ELSE. MANY SOMEONE ELSES.

.....I--IT HAD A HORRIBLE PRICE, SUE.....

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

AURTHOR? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHAT PRICE?

THE CHILDREN...

THALMUS. HE KILLED THREE OF THE CHILDREN. MAYBE MORE, I DONT KNOW.

I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS DOING IT UNTIL TONIGHT, BUT I SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT COMING. I KNEW HE WAS HURTING THEM AND MY SILENCE WAS THE ASSURANCE HE'D KEEP WORKING ON YOUR CURE.

YOU ---Y-YOU SOLD YOURSELF CHEAP, AURTHOR....

I DON'T WANT A CURE IF THE PRICE IS CHILDREN OR ANYONE ELSE!!

SUE, SUE, I DIDN'T I KNOW. PLEASE UNDERSTAND I—

I—

NURSE...

SHE'S GONE. SHE'S DEAD.

I BROKE MY PROMISE. WHAT'S WORSE IS HER LAST FEW MINUTES HURT... AND IT WAS ALL MY FAULT.

WHAT ARE YOU—

I PROMISE YOU'LL KNOW EVERYTHING SOON. I HAVE TO GO NOW.

SO HOW'S THE LITTLE WOMAN TODAY?

I'M SURE YOU SEE MY SIDE OF THINGS NOW.

HERE'S THE PHONE. ONE CALL AND ALL THE HURTING STOPS, ARTIE. DO IT.

911? YES MA'AM. I'M CALLING TO CONFESS A CRIME...

IN THE CANCER LABORATORY OF THE MASON RESEARCH CENTER ARE THREE SACKS CONTAINING THE REMAINS OF THREE CHILDREN.

O--ONE OF THEM IS NAMED FLERP.

M-MY NAME? MY NAME IS AURTHOR SULLIVAN.

I AM AN ASSISTANT AT MASON RESEARCH. ... THE CRIME ? I'm GUILTY OF COVERING FOR THE KILLER, DR. RIGOR THALMUS, BY KEEPING QUIET.

WE ARE PARKED IN FRONT OF ST. NINIAN'S HOSPITAL IN A NAVY BLUE EXPLORER. HURRY.

WHAT?!

YES...YES HE'S HERE WITH ME. HE'S TRYING TO TAKE THE PHONE. NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT US GOING ANYWHERE. HE DIDN'T SEE ME GRAB HIS KEYS WHEN I TOOK THE PHONE. GET HERE AS QUICK AS YOU CAN.

WHAT THE FUCK DID YOU DO THAT FOR??

BECAUSE I HATE YOU.

DO YOU REALIZE HOW MANY PEOPLE YOU JUST KILLED? I TOLD YOU I DON'T KEEP ANY NOTES! YOU KNOW THAT DATA I FED TO THE COMPUTER? ITS ALL DELETED NOW! THERE'S NO CURE WITHOUT ME! THERE'S—

I'M GLAD YOU BROUGHT THAT UP, RIGGS. I FIGURED YOU'D PULL THAT KIND OF FUCKERY AT SOME POINT. I SET UP THE COMPUTER'S CACHE TO BACK UP EVERY FILE DELETED TO ANOTHER DRIVE. ITS BEEN THAT WAY ABOUT A WEEK AND THERE'S PLENTY OF NOTES.

YOU GOD-DAMNED FUCKING ASSHOLE!! I HATE YOU!!

HATE? LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT HATE...

TWO DAYS AGO I FOUND MYSELF THINKING MY LIFE AND CHOICES WOULD BE EASIER IF SUE WOULD JUST DIE.

I HATE YOU FOR MAKING ME WISH MY WIFE WAS DEAD.

SHE CAN STILL DIE, YOU KNOW, AND ITS NOT TOO LATE TO SAVE HER. WE'LL JUST TWIST YOUR STORY A LITTLE---

SHE'S DEAD! SHE'S DEAD!! GOD DAMN YOU, SHE'S DEAD!

SIRS?

STEP OUT OF THE CAR. VERY SLOWLY.

RWAR

EPILOGUE...

I AM STANDING OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM WHERE DR. RIGOR THALMUS HAS JUST BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF SEVERAL COUNTS OF CHILD MOLESTATION AND FIVE COUNTS OF JUVENILE MURDER.

KPET

THE EVIDENCE THAT BEST CONVINCED THE JURY WAS PRESENTED BY THE MASON RESEARCH SECURITY GUARD.....

KPET

DR. THALMUS GOT ME WORRIED THINKING IT WAS ARTIE WHO WAS HURTING THE KIDS. ONE OF THE TEMP WARD NURSES, FARAH AGOH, AND I INSTALLED A CAMERA FOR EXTRA INSURANCE AND WE'VE CAPTURED THREE OF THE FIVE MURDERS ON TAPE. I'M JUST SORRY WE DIDN'T CATCH ON SOONER.

KPET

AHH, KEVIN? THEY'RE BRINGING HIM OUT...

KPET

I'LL KILL YOU!!

KPET

KILL YOU!!

KPET

WHY DID YOU STEAL MY BOY?!

WELL, THAT'S ALL FROM HERE. NOW BACK TO WOLFRAM WITH MORE ON THE FRONT IN IRAQ.

KPET

TODAY I'M STANDING IN FRONT OF THE COURTROOM WHERE AURTHOR SULLIVAN HAS BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF COVERING UP FOR THE CRIMES OF DOCTOR RIGOR THALMUS.

KIET

THOUGH THE JUDGE COULD HAND DOWN NO PUNISHMENT ONCE IT WAS PROVEN THAT MR. SULLIVAN DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THE CHILD MURDERS AND THAT DR. THALMUS WAS USING HIS SICK WIFE TO MANIPULATE HIM.

KIET

THE JUDGE OBVIOUSLY REALISED THAT PUNISHING MY CLIENT COULD SERVE TWO PURPOSES: EITHER TO EDUCATE HIM, OR TO USE HIM AS AN EXAMPLE TO A POTENTIAL CRIMINAL.

KIET

MY CLIENT ADMITS HIS GUILT AND IS THANKFUL FOR THE JUDGE'S RULING SO THAT HE CAN NOW DEDICATE HIMSELF TO HIS RESEARCH SO THAT NO MORE LIVES WILL FALL VICTIM TO CANCER.

KIET

MASON RESEARCH HAS PUBLICLY STATED THAT THEY WOULD WELCOME MR. SULLIVAN BACK TO WORK ON DOCTOR THALMUS'S CURE. THIS, MIXED WITH A HUGE SHOW OF PUBLIC SYMPATHY FOR MR. SULLIVAN MIGHT HAVE MADE IT POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE JUDGE TO SENTENCE HIM.

KIET

THOUGH, THE MOST CONVINCING EVENT IN THE TRIAL MUST HAVE BEEN MR. SULLIVAN'S TEARFUL REACTION TO A TESTIFYING MOTHER WHO ASKED HIM WHY HER DAUGHTER DESERVED TO DIE.

KIET

MR. SULLIVAN'S BLATANT GUILT WAS TOUCHING, BUT THE QUESTION WAS, PERHAPS, BETTER ASKED TO DOCTOR THALMUS, NOW SITTING ON DEATH ROW..

KIET

SEVERAL YEARS IN THE MAKING, DR. SULLIVAN OF MASON RESEARCH HAD A GREAT ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY.

KPET

MY COLLEAGUE, DOCTOR DEE, AND I ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE OUR FIRST MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN THE TREATMENT OF CANCER.

KPET

THIS IS THE FIRST STEP IN OUR ONGOING WAR WITH THIS DISEASE, AND THE FIRST STEP TOWARD MY OWN SALVATION.

KPET

OUR VIEWERS MAY RECALL THAT DOCTOR SULLIVAN HAD PLAYED A PART IN THE CONTROVERSIAL THALMUS MURDERS. THE SUBJECT OF THE EXTENT OF DOCTOR SULLIVAN'S INNOCENCE IS STILL BEING HOTLY DEBATED.

KPET

DOCTOR THALMUS, THE CHILD KILLER, IS NOW SITTING ON DEATH ROW AWAITING HIS EXECUTION DATE.

KPET

AND NOW FOR MORE ON THE MEDIA SETUP OF THE ENRON COMPANY...

KPET

SURE, I'M GLAD I DID IT. AND I'M NOT SORRY THEY'RE DEAD.

KPET

IT WAS POWER, TAKING LIFE AWAY. YOU DON'T GET IT. I AM A GOD.

KPET

THAT WAS DOCTOR RIGOR THALMUS CONVICTED CHILD RAPIST AND MURDERER IN AN INTERVIEW TWO YEARS AGO.

KPET

THE TAPE WE ARE ABOUT TO PLAY FOR YOU SHOWS A VERY DIFFERENT PERSON.

KPET

AFTER MUCH DEBATE, KPET HAS DECIDED TO PLAY THIS TAPE AS A WARNING TO CRIMINALS OF THE RESULTS OF THEIR CRIMES...

KPET

PARENTS ARE ADVISED TO TURN OFF THE TELEVISION OR TO TAKE SMALL CHILDREN OUT OF THE ROOM AT THIS TIME.

KPET

RIGOR THALMUS, YOU HAVE BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF FIVE COUNTS OF MURDER BY A JURY OF YOUR PEERS.

KPET

YOUR SENTENCE OF EXECUTION BY LETHAL INJECTION WILL BE CARRIED OUT AT THIS TIME. MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SOUL.

KPET

NO! NO! GET THAT AWAY FROM ME!!

KPET

GET IT OUT OF ME!! GET IT OUT!!

KPET

PLEASE... PLEASE...

KPET

P.....

KPET

.....

KPET

SOME TIME LATER

KNOCK KNOK

ITS UNLOCKED

"THANKS FOR LETTING ME BORROW BACK LIGHT!! YOU GOT ANYTHING ELSE BY GIBSON? A LOT BETTER THAN THAT LAST BOOK, SCOTTY...

OF COURSE, IT WAS A HOPKINS...

ANYWAY, I....

HI MISTER SULLIVAN. DO YOU REMEMBER ME?

OF COURSE I DO...

YOU'RE MY FIVER...

WSU

OH MY GOD, LOOK HOW BIG YOU'VE GROWN...

MR. SULLIVAN, THIS IS MY GIRLFRIEND, SELPHI.

HELLO.

GOOD MORNING, MA'AM. FIVER, YOU PICKED A CUTIE.

HEH. SIR...?

NEVER TOLD YOU, BUT... MY NAME IS ARTIE TOO...

SIR, I CAN'T STAY LONG. THERE'LL BE MORE TIME THIS EVENING...

OH! ALRIGHT. THIS EUENING IS FINE.

GET UP, AURTHOR.....

GET UP?

YES. YOU BLACKED OUT AND HAD A HEART ATTACK. YOUR THIRD THIS YEAR. YOU DIDN'T SURVIVE THIS TIME. YOUR BODY IS STILL ON THE FLOOR...

OH. SO IT IS.

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TAKING VERY GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF HAVE YOU?

NO...NO, I HAVEN'T. I CAN'T FORGIVE MYSELF.

THAT'S WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF...

WITHOUT BEING AT PEACE WITH YOURSELF, YOU CAN'T MAKE IT INTO HEAVEN.

OH...SO ITS HELL, THEN?

NOT NECESSARILY. I CAN ALMOST ASSURE YOU YOU'LL GET THE THIRD OPTION, BUT SOMEONE ELSE WILL TAKE YOU TO JUDGEMENT. I MUST GO.

RIGOR THALMUS MADE ME CHASE HIM. I'VE GOT HIM CORNERED. HEH. ONE LOOK AT DRIP AND HE RAN.

DRIP. WAS THAT THE THING I SAW WITH THALMUS ONCE?

YES.

WAS IT CONTROLLING HIM?

NO. SIN CAN SUGGEST BUT IT CAN'T MAKE YOU DO ANYTHING.

LISTENING TO SIN BECAME VERY EASY TO RIGOR. I MUST GO. SKYE BLUEDEER WILL TAKE YOU TO JUDGEMENT.

SKYE, RIGHT?

YES. I SHALL ESCORT YOU TO JUDGEMENT.

JACK CAN'T TELL YOU BUT I CAN. YOU WILL BE SENT TO PURGATORY. MY REALM.

SUE IS THERE WAITING FOR YOU. SHE TRADED HEAVEN FOR YOU.

REALLY? AFTER WE LAST TALKED, I'D HAVE THOUGHT SHE WOULDN'T...

SHE LOVES YOU...

SHE UNDERSTANDS I MIGHT HAVE LIKED TO STAY A BIT LONGER TO SEE ARTIE TWO...

HE WANTED TO SAY "THANK YOU"

GOOD KID, THAT ONE.....SO, TELL ME ABOUT PURGATORY.

ITS MUCH LIKE EARTH. THO NO DEATH, NO TORTURE, NO PLAGUE, NO WAR. BUT ITS NOT PERFECTION. WHEN YOU STUB YOUR TOE, ITS STILL GOING TO HURT.

DOESN'T SOUND TOO BAD.

LET'S PUT IT THIS WAY: YOUR BOOK SHELF WILL BE STOCKED WITH ALL THE J. ROSOLAS AND S. HOWARD YOU COULD WANT, BUT IT WILL ALSO HAVE A HOPKINS IN THERE.

URF. DAMMIT...

TTFN

Rachel Hader

09/05/02 19:12 PST